

And to know what happened, again, from my great grandfather, throughout our history, again we can find those moments in which we have helped each other. We have all given some credence, something given back to this country, the more we know about that, the more we will feel better about who we are today and our vision for the future. So we have to make sure we keep that in mind, for sure.

Ms. TENNEY. I agree. I think we have to focus on the people who are helping us, not the people who aren't. And I think that this is what we wanted to do today, and we are grateful to you to be able to focus on people who actually help, not the people tearing us down, the people trying to bring our country to its knees, but people trying to make us rise up and be better, and be a better America than we are today. And that is our striving for our future. That is what we want our children to be. We want America to be better for our children and our grandchildren.

And I think by recognizing that there were great people in our past who have done amazing things who never got the recognition, but often those people go unnoticed. And I think that is why it meant so much for us to have you there.

Madam Speaker, I urge anyone if you want to come up on a beautiful fall day, or you can come in the warm summer days, it is a little warmer—it is a little snowy right now—to come to visit Peterboro and meet with some of our great docents, who I mentioned in my remarks, who are studying and uncovering documents and trying to show the true history so we understand it and so we can learn from it.

Even though I had been to Peterboro when I was younger—I knew about it when I was a kid because it was my mom's home county—I never knew the depth of it, or I learned so much more just by that experience. And I am sure if I go again to the Abolitionist Hall of Fame, I think I would learn even more there. But just learning about Harriet Tubman and going to her house and being in the same room where you know that she was providing so much aid and comfort and love to people she didn't know but people she believed in and knew needed to understand and feel that taste of freedom, just standing there with you and the people that worked there and how much it meant to them, they conveyed that sort of, you know, that wonderful feeling to us as well.

So I feel like I just would love to have everyone come and have that experience. And anywhere else in the country, we would love to encourage our colleagues to come out and tell us about great experiences and great Americans that are out there that might not get the recognition. They might not be getting the clicks on twitter or Facebook or social media, but there are people out there doing great works and uncovering great heroism.

Mr. OWENS. If I could add a little about Peterboro. This was, again, a new experience for me. And what that particular place represented for so many Americans, particularly Black Americans, was a place of hope. They knew that once they got to Peterboro, they were literally very close to Canada, which was their, really, freedom. That was it.

They could then know they weren't going to be hiding and going through all the stealth and knowing they could be recaptured. So that hope is a big factor we talked about. And I hope that those that are listening to our conversation know that actually our country is built on that.

What we have done so far today is talked about what our country is capable of because we have done it in the past. And the more hope we can give to our fellow Americans that this is a country, the best in the history of mankind, that we can serve each other, that we can build, not destroy, and that we can become a much better country because that is actually within our mission statement, to be a more perfect union. And we can do that, and that is what we have done, again, very successfully.

I am just very excited to have this opportunity to spend this time with you. It was a great opportunity. I can't wait to get back. If I can say, for anyone who is listening, please check this place out. Harriet Tubman, as always, for many of us we know she is a hero, go to her place to see her property—a person that once was the property of someone else—her property and what she did and what she gave away to so many because she just loved the process of service. It was a great experience, and I can't wait to get back and check it out again.

Ms. TENNEY. We can't wait to have you back.

And also, I just think about that last moment when we were in Gerrit Smith Estate, in the barn. We went back in the barn and we saw these conditions where horses and mules were put, and that they actually had to hide people in there.

We came out of the barn, and there was this gleaming sunlight on us on that cold day. And I looked above, and there was a sign that said "Heaven in Peterboro," the two places where the slaves were safe and symbolized freedom.

So it was just an honor for me to represent the community. And then to have you standing there with that gleaming sunlight on us and knowing that so many people in our past, that was their gateway to freedom and gateway to finding a new life, I think it was a tremendous experience. We hope maybe you can come again and we can invite our colleagues and others to come and experience Peterboro.

Mr. OWENS. I would love to.

Ms. TENNEY. And Harriet Tubman's home, of course.

Mr. OWENS. If I could just leave one message as my last final word to those

who are watching. This country is a place that has thrived because people can envision themselves doing much, much better. And we do that when we, the people, get together and we really put our hearts and soul into making sure our next generation is a much better place than our time is, and we do that better than any other country.

I am thankful for the opportunity to visit the home of my hero since I was 12 years old, and that was kind of exciting to hear that you were that close to the area and to have the invitation to come up and see it. So thank you so much for that.

Ms. TENNEY. Yes, thank you. And what a great discovery it was, just sitting on the floor of the House Chamber, BURGESS and I. And I said, you have never been to Peterboro? How about this?

Who would think that I would be hosting a famous person like BURGESS OWENS, a hero in our communities, in my own little community, and that we would have that common bond with Harriet Tubman.

But we are grateful. We are just grateful for you and your service and everyone here. And I just hope that my colleagues and anyone who wants to join Peterboro—again, I hate to do too much of a pitch—but go to www.gerritsmith.org. It is an amazing place. It is humble, but it is just majestic and the accomplishments that were made in that wonderful place.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. BURGESS, for joining us, and thank him for everything he has done, for standing courageously and boldly for our communities and for our country, and standing up for our Constitution and freedom. Because that is really what is going to unite us.

Let's talk about what unites us, not what divides us. We have a lot of great history that can really bring us together in the future. And so I thank you.

Mr. OWENS. Thank you so much. Exactly the same. We have a remarkable freshman team. I am so honored to be serving with you at this point. Let's keep this thing moving forward, for sure.

Ms. TENNEY. Thank you so much. The honor is all mine.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: